



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

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Grand Teton National Park News Release

FIRE IGNITES NEAR PILGRIM CREEK IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Interagency fire crews responded to a report of a fire in Grand Teton National Park near Pilgrim Creek on Tuesday, August 20, at 1:40 p.m. The Pilgrim Fire was lightning-caused and burning in sagebrush and grass near Highway 26/89/287, between Jackson Lake Lodge and Colter Bay Village. Due to very dry conditions and brisk winds, the fire had potential to quickly spread.

Four wildland fire engines, a Teton Interagency contract helicopter and a 20-person fire crew were immediately dispatched to the Pilgrim Fire. Gusty afternoon winds increased the fire's size to three acres. Throughout afternoon and evening hours, fire crews made good progress on the fire and this morning, Wednesday, August 21, it remains three acres in size with a 50% containment.

To facilitate access by firefighting equipment and to ensure public safety due to fire spotting near the roadway and reduced visibility because of smoke, Highway 26/89/287 was closed temporarily between Jackson Lake Lodge and Colter Bay Village at 2:45 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon. Temporary travel restrictions remained in place for three hours until 5:40 p.m. when a partial lifting of the road closure occurred. All travel restrictions were lifted by 10:00 p.m. Tuesday night.

Area residents and visitors are reminded that fire restrictions are still in effect and the fire danger rating for the greater Jackson Hole area is listed as High. Warm and dry weather conditions with gusty winds can quickly increase the risk of a wildland fire. For more information on fire activity in the park or Jackson Hole area, visit www.tetonfires.com.

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